



STOCKHOLM DECLARATION

on the Need to Critically Review and Strengthen the OSCE's Work on Conflicts to Strengthen Security, Protect Human Rights and Uphold the Helsinki Principles¹

Summary of key recommendations

I. Recommendations encompassing all areas of the OSCE's work on conflicts and human rights

On conceptual approaches:

1. Put the human dimension in stronger focus of the OSCE's work to address conflicts in order to increase the effectiveness of addressing human rights violations that contribute to the emergence and revival of conflicts. Strengthen the systematic link between all OSCE dimensions in the OSCE's work on conflicts.
2. Ensure the inclusion of CS² in all processes of the OSCE's work on conflicts, in particular in all elements of the conflict cycle, including by establishing systematic communication platforms for each specific conflict.
3. Apply gender-sensitive conflict analysis and strategies in the OSCE's work on conflicts and ensure the effective engagement of women, especially conflict-affected women, at all stages.

On capacity and institutional arrangements:

4. Improve coordination and cooperation between all relevant OSCE executive bodies and institutions, involved in the work on conflicts to ensure the best use of expertise and institutional memory.
5. Ensure sufficient funding/capacities for OSCE actors working on conflicts to make full use of their mandates and maintain their ability to respond to (re-)emerging tensions.
6. Ensure a transparent and participative evaluation, including with broader CS, of the MC Decision 3/2011 implementation.
7. Modify current and establish new mechanisms of rapid response to crises and conflict situations (e.g., emergency reaction procedures, addressing in a timely and consistent manner early warning signals).
8. Establish new cooperation formats between the OSCE and its pS without a field mission.
9. Make information on the implementation of OSCE projects in pS more transparent.
10. Make the mandates and work of the OSCE conflict resolution formats and processes more transparent and accessible to CS and affected communities.

On the engagement with civil society

11. Ensure active engagement of all relevant OSCE bodies with broader CS and representatives of affected populations through regular and systematic communication mechanisms.
12. Ensure regular involvement of CS by the CPC, the HCNM and field operations in analysis and policy development.
13. Mainstream the meaning and role of CS along the conflict cycle, in all institutions of the three OSCE Dimensions and ensure respective engagement with CS (e.g., through the creation of a position of a Special Representative on CS).
14. Prevent marginalization/support protection of CS in conflict and post-conflict areas and develop guidelines on security of peacebuilders (especially women).
15. Study examples of cross-divide CS networks/platforms, working on conflicts and positively contributing to dialogues and mediation, and tap into them as a valuable resource and/or cooperate systematically.

¹ <https://www.civicsolidarity.org/article/1843/outcome-documents-2021-parallel-civil-society-conference-stockholm-declaration-need>

² See the list of abbreviations on page 3.

II. Recommendations on the OSCE's work on the three elements of the "conflict cycle"

On early warning and conflict prevention

16. Mainstream the notion of a "human dimension crisis" and establish respective emergency procedures as well as a coordination mechanism to exchange information among key actors, including CS.
17. Increase the support by pS of the prevention approach of the CPC and the field missions, linking the short-term operational prevention with long-term structural prevention and addressing cross-dimensional root causes of conflicts.
18. Strengthen the leadership role of the Chairpersonship to ensure effective, rapid response and ensure the active use of the CPC early warning functions by the Chairpersonship.
19. In contexts of potential conflict revival in regions which lack field operations, other OSCE instruments (e.g., fact-finding missions), should be used actively. If monitoring missions are not possible, OSCE bodies should more actively be engaged in distant monitoring and use CS documentation (e.g., through a respective information-collecting OSCE website).
20. Ensure a more effective use of the SG's mandate for early warning action on the basis of the MC Decision 3/2011 (e.g., more regular early warning reports to the PC).
21. Establish information exchange on early warning with other IGOs and actively use it.
22. Establish a systematic mechanism for CS to share relevant information with the Network of Early Warning focal points and the CPC SitRoom (e.g., in analogy to the ODIHR hate crime reporting website).
23. Increase the CPC's resources to allow a deepened focus on capacity-building for CS organizations in the field of early warning/early action.
24. Ensure the commission of a study by the HCNM on the implementation of the HCNM conflict prevention Guidelines and hold joint discussions of findings and recommendations with pS and broader CS.
25. Improve ODIHR's rapid response/standby capacity to deal with emergencies and crisis situations (such as for sending human dimension assessment missions).
26. Treat the protection of CS space as a matter of conflict prevention and consider repressive legislative and policy changes towards CS as early warning signs of a human dimension crisis (the possible establishment of a mandate of a Special Representative on CS should be taken into consideration).
27. Closely monitor gender indicators of conflict revival, elaborated by the CPC with the Secretariat's Gender Unit, as an important prevention component.
28. Consult women's CS groups during the formulation of early warning systems and establish specific channels for women to report to the CPC and field operations.
29. Support the development of monitoring tools for propaganda, disinformation and hate speech by the OSCE RFoM in cooperation with CS and increase civil responsibility in this field.

On crisis response and conflict resolution

30. Ensure the involvement of CS in negotiations and monitoring of implementation of agreements (e.g., by studying the model of the Civil Society Support Room established by the UN in the Syrian case).
31. Increase field presence in conflict zones and ensure broad access and security for monitoring missions.
32. Ensure that State parties to a conflict cannot act as mediators/peacekeepers in the conflict.
33. Develop gender-sensitive mechanisms in preventing and mitigating the effects of armed conflict on women and establish protective mechanisms for women against violence during and after conflicts.
34. Strengthen the protection of journalists, HR defenders, and peacebuilders.

On post-conflict transformation and peacebuilding

35. Develop specific, comprehensive post-conflict transformation frameworks/strategies for each conflict.
36. Develop and implement tailor-made training programs in post-conflict transformation for CS.
37. Develop in a participative, inclusive way a gender-sensitive approach to transitional justice and post-conflict transformation.
38. Make full use of the knowledge of the OSCE's past work, including through the institutional memory of the OSCE Documentation Centre when developing new strategies/programs.

List of Abbreviations

CPC	OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
CS	Civil Society
HCNM	OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
HR	Human Rights
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
MC	OSCE Ministerial Council
ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PC	Permanent Council
pS	Participating States
RFoM	OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
SG	OSCE Secretary General
SitRoom	Situation/Communications Room of the CPC